

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /101 W

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R 291523Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2236

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E.O. 1162: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AU

SUBJECT: PREVIEW OF SALZBURG PROVINCIAL
ELECTIONS

REF: VIENNA'S A-89

1. SALZBURG PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, SCHEDULED
MARCH 31, WILL MOST PROBABLY RESULT IN MODERATE
GAINS FOR CONSERVATIVE PARTY (OVP) AT EXPENSE
OF SOCIALISTS (SPO) AND RIGHT-WING FREEDOM PARTY
(FPO), ACCORDING TO POLITICAL SOURCES WELL-KNOWN
TO EMBASSY. FORECAST IS THAT NEWLY-ELECTED
LEGISLATURE OF 36 SEATS (INCREASED FROM PRESENT
32 SEATS) WILL HAVE FOLLOWING COMPOSITION:
OVP: 16-17 SEATS (FORMERLY 13); SPO: 15-14 (13);
FPO: 5 (6).

2. FOREGOING FORECAST IS IN LINE WITH PAST
CURVE OF PARTY FORTUNES IN PROVINCES, WITH MAJOR
OPPOSITION PARTY AT FEDERAL LEVEL (IN THIS CASE
OVP) GAINING IN PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS AT EXPENSE
OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PARTY (SPO). FOLLOWING
ELECTIONS, ALL THREE PARTIES EXPECTED TO RECONSTITUTE
THREE-PARTY PROVINCIAL COALITION GOVERNMENT
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WITH LONG-TIME OVP SALZBURG LEADER HANS

LECHNER AGAIN AS GOVERNOR.

3. IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN, OVP HAS BEEN
GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL IN CASTING POLITICAL
ENCOUNTER AS CONTEST OF PERSONALITIES, THUS
PLAYING TO ITS STRONGEST ASSET: REGIONAL
POPULARITY OF GOVERNER LECHNER. SOCIALISTS,
IN ADDITION, HAVE BEEN TAKING BIT OF BUFFETING
AT FEDERAL LEVEL REGARDING INFLATIONARY
PRESSURES, THEIR ADOPTION OF LEGAL
ABORTION BILL AND DEMANDS FROM FARMERS FOR
LARGER SUPPORT PRICES, ALL ISSUES WHICH HAVE
TENDED TO DAMPEN SOCIALIST PROSPECTS IN SALZBURG
REGION. LOCAL ISSUES--SALE OF REAL ESTATE TO
FOREIGNERS, ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT--HAVE GENERATED LITTLE ENTHUSIASM. HUMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENNA02827
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740070-0050
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974032/aaaaabtc.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: VIENNA'S A-89
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <06 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PREVIEW OF SALZBURG PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005